

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of June 17, 2004.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-15 have been allowed.

Claims 17, 19, and 20 have been object to as depending from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent format.

Claims 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Loce, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,177).

Comments/Arguments

Claim 16 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, any rejections or objections directed thereto are now moot.

Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend from claim 8, and claim 18 as been amended to depend from claim 17.

Claim 17 has been placed in independent format. Accordingly, as the Examiner has acknowledged, claim 17 is now in condition for allowance, along with claims 18-20 that depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment A. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

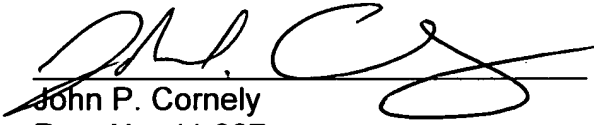
In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call the undersigned, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

September 17, 2004

Date


John P. Cornely
Reg. No. 41,687
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

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